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Amendments to the Claims

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

1. -25 (cancelled).

26. (previously presented) A micro-glow plug comprising:

a ceramic heating element having a first arm having a first width, a second arm having a second width, and a tip having a third width that is less than said first and second widths, said first arm and second arm connected to said tip;

a first connecting apparatus for electrically connecting a voltage source across the first arm and the second arm so that when current is applied to said connecting apparatus a current flows through the ceramic heating element wherein the current density at the tip is increased due to the decreased third width of the tip to generate a high operating temperature at the tip while the first arm and the second arm remain relatively cool; and

a body having a first end and a second end;

wherein there are two or more of said ceramic heating elements integrally connected to said first end of said body, said first arm of said two or more ceramic heating elements interconnected; and wherein:

said connecting apparatus comprises a switching voltage source and a switch apparatus for electrically connecting said switching voltage source across said interconnected first arm of said two or more ceramic heating elements and each second arm of said two or more ceramic heating elements so that a current flows through a first one of said two or more ceramic heating elements and said switching voltage source switches voltage to the next second arm of the next one

of said two or more ceramic heating elements when said first one of said two or more ceramic heating elements fails.

27. (original) The micro-glow plug of claim 26 wherein said body is cylindrical.

28. (original) A micro-glow plug system comprising:

a body having two or more micro-glow plugs integrally connected to the body;

a switching apparatus for switching power between said two or more micro-glow plugs;

a sensor to monitor a current flow to said two or more micro-glow plugs wherein when said current flow falls below a predetermined level, said sensor sends a signal to said switching apparatus and said switching apparatus switches said power to a next one of said two or more micro-glow plugs.

29. (original) The micro-glow plug system of claim 28, and further including a source of said power, and wherein said sensor is connected in serial between the switching apparatus and said power source.

30. (original) The micro-glow plug system of claim 28 wherein said switching apparatus comprises a plurality of controlled switches each having a control terminal and a controller for switching said power to the control terminal of a corresponding one of said plurality of controlled switches.

31-51 (cancelled).